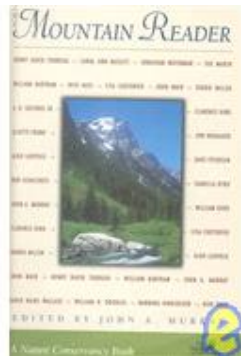


The Mountain Reader

John A Murray

Globe Pequot Press 2000



As with Murray's other recent compilation (*Nature Writing* 2000), the 22 essays in this anthology range from thoughtful meditations (Henry David Thoreau and William O. Douglas) to more technical scientific observation (John Muir and William Byrd) and also include essays that use the mountain as metaphor for grappling with personal ordeals. Although the quality of the writing itself is good overall, a far more complete and focused collection of writings with mountains as the topic is found in *The Mountain World*, edited by Gregory McNamee. While Murray's collection is limited to North America and a few centuries, McNamee's work covers (albeit briefly) over two millennia and 42 writers from extremely diverse cultures and is an excellent starting point for further research.

This is the third book in a series of nature anthologies in partnership with The Nature Conservancy - the conservation organization over 900,000 members whose protection efforts span the globe. In this volume the mountains of the world are celebrated with twenty-three literary works that range over three continents and two hundred years: John Muir on the Sierra Nevadas, Henry David Thoreau on Maine's Ktaadn; Rob Schulties on the Navaho people of the Colorado Plateau; Jimmy Carter on Kilimanjaro; Isabella Byrd's bold ascent in the Rocky Mountains in the 1870s; David Rains Wallace on the Central American mountain ranges; a Denali rescue mission recounted by Jonathan Waterman; Hemingway on the Swiss Alps; and more.